A Newsletter from the CIHR Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health

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Aboriginal Health Research News

Message from Dr. Malcolm King, IAPH Scientific Director

Australian perspectives

I had the privilege of spending six weeks in Australia this summer. In fact, I traded our summer for their winter, but it was no real hardship – the southern Australian winter is milder than our Vancouver version, and "winter" in the north is the dry season – sunny 30-degree days with no risk of rain.

The first part of the visit focused on HIV/AIDS: The main event was the AIDS 2014 International Conference in Melbourne, attended by some 14,000 people. There was certainly an important Indigenous presence in Melbourne, led by the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, who welcomed the delegates to the country. The International Indigenous Working Group on HIV/AIDS (IIWGHA), which consists of representatives from Canada, USA, Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Latin America, made its views known – "Nothing about us without us!". The Group, coordinated by Trevor Stratton of the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN), made several presentations at the conference, both on the main stage as well as in the Global Village, a significant feature of AIDS meetings. IIWGHA was also able to meet with Minister Rona Ambrose and members of the Health Canada delegation. I was honoured to be accepted by both sides of the table (HC and IIWGHA) as one of theirs.

Minister Rona Ambrose visits the Burnet Institute while attending the AIDS 2014 conference in Melbourne.

Prior to Melbourne, we met in Sydney as the Indigenous AIDS Pre-Conference: Our Story, Our Time, Our Future. The Indigenous Pre-Conference was organized by the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AIDS community, led by James Ward of the Baker IDI in Alice Springs. It provided an excellent overview of Indigenous HIV/AIDS – the issues facing Indigenous peoples internationally, and the solutions that await. Informative Canadian keynote presentations were made by Earl Nowgesic (U Toronto), Alexandra King (Simon Fraser U) and Trevor Stratton (CAAN).

The rest of the Australian visit was a whirlwind tour. While in Melbourne, I took advantage of the opportunity to take part in a series of dialogs with Australian counterparts in the Lowitja Institute on the topic of Indigenous knowledge exchange. The dialogs related to bringing communities, researchers and agencies together to improve understandings and finding better ways to work together to meet common goals. It's evident that we have commonalities in how we view communities and their role in wellness, and how community voices need to be heard in the important knowledge exchange dialogs that are otherwise focused on researchers (knowledge generators) and knowledge users (policy-makers, decision-makers). The third element needs to be the community. I'll have more to communicate on this issue in a future newsletter.

In the North (Darwin) and Northwest of Australia (Broome), Aboriginal people are a much more visible presence. Health inequities are also stronger here, just as they are in our Canadian north. I was able to take part in discussions of chronic disease issues, as well as mental health and health service delivery. I brought the message of Pathways to Health Equity to Darwin and Broome, and this was well received in both locations. There are Indigenous health researchers in both regions, as well as in other parts of Australia, who are anxious to make connections with our research communities and develop opportunities for mutual support of common goals. I'd be pleased to help facilitate those connections if members of our Canadian indigenous health research community are interested.

Dr. Jaquelyne Hughes, nephrologist at the Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University with Drs. Alexandra and Malcolm King (photo credit: Lucy Barnard)

Malcolm King, PhD

Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Canada

Another Successful National Gathering of Graduate Students

The 2014 National Gathering of Graduate Students (NGGS) was held July 12 - 14 at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC. This year the Gathering was hosted by the SFU Office for Aboriginal Peoples, and sponsored by IAPH, Kloshe Tillicum NEAHR, Centre for Aboriginal Health Research at University of Victoria, and the AHRNet Secretariat. This annual event is more than an intellectual endeavour providing a capacity building forum for students to present and discuss their research. Indigenous philosophy and the value of sharing manifested itself through dialogue with Elders, mentors, attending varied workshops, and networking with community, academic researchers and other students in Indigenous health research.

To start in a good way, on the first day the opening ceremonies began with singing, prayer and much laughter. What followed was the keynote presentation on "The Cedar Project", poignantly delivered by Vicky Thomas and Kate Jongbloed. This project is a multi-year community-based research project that explores the connections between injection drug use and vulnerability to HIV and hepatitis C infection among young Aboriginal people in BC. Participants then heard a presentation on applying for CIHR Awards by Dale Dempsey, Manager, Benefits Realization and Transition at CIHR. Day 1 also included oral presentations by graduate students attending the Gathering, Elders Circles in which students dialogued and shared with Elders on a variety of topics, a poster presentation session, and the annual NGGS Dinner.

The evening's dinner was a time for celebration as the IAPH Scientific Director Awards were presented by Dr. Malcolm King. Awardees included: Erin Huner, PhD (Department of Geography, Western University) - PhD Award: "Make What We Said Heard": Honouring Elder voices lost in research practice"; Kaitlyn Finner (Geography, McGill University) - Master's Award: "Including the Intangible: Photo-Cards as a Method for Analyzing the Social and Cultural Importance of Food in Rigolet, Nunatsiavut"; and Colin Baillie (Kinesiology and Health Studies, Queen's University) and Francine Darroch (Human Kinetics, University of Ottawa) tied for the Knowledge Translation/dissemination award. Colin's abstract was titled, "Learning about the Land: Indigenous Youth Documenting Community Features Using Photovoice", and Francine's titled, "Conception of a Resource: Development of a Physical Activity Resource for Pregnant Urban First Nations Women in Ottawa, Canada".

Day 2 began with a panel presentation by Ryan Day of the Secwepemc Health Directors Hub and Meghan Brinoni and Mark Matthew of the First Nations Health Authority. Following this, students held more oral presentation sessions and in the afternoon attended a mix of mentorship and workshop sessions. Dr. Charlotte Reading (CAHR UVic), Dr. Sandra Jarvis-Selinger (UBC) and Dr. Peter Hutchinson (UBC) conducted the mentorship sessions as open dialogues with students. Workshops covered numerous topics and were hosted by Sherri Pooyak (Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network), Namaste Marsden (AHRNets), Dr. Peter Hutchinson, Alycia Fridkin (First Nations Health Authority), Jennifer Mackie (UBC Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health), Dr. Kim van der Woerd (Reciprocal Consulting), and Sharon Thira (Kloshe Tillicum). Many thanks to our mentors and workshop host for sharing their time, knowledge and experience.

As the final conference day was coming to a close, it felt like it was too soon. Excitement still in the air, the sharing that began just days earlier had resulted in an exchange of ideas, inspiration and more laughter. But most importantly what manifested was the strengthening of community. The conference officially closed as it began with a song and well wishes for safe travel home. The 'good feelings' we were left with brought anticipation that we will all meet again next year.

Participants at the 2014 National Gathering of Graduate Students

CIHR News & Funding Opportunities

CIHR Reforms: Update on the 2014 Foundation Scheme "live pilot" competition

On June 23, 2014 the registration to the first Foundation Scheme "live pilot" competition closed. CIHR received 1576 eligible registrations to the competition. While this is higher than expected, we are actively recruiting for peer review and fully believe that we will have a sufficient number of reviewers available this fall to conduct the stage 1 application review. It is expected that the number of applicants invited to stage 2 will be in the range of 300-600. The number of grants expected to be funded in this competition remains at approximately 120-250, as originally announced in the funding opportunity.

We would also like to inform the research community that new and updated materials are now available on the Foundation Scheme live pilot web page for applicants and reviewers.

For applicants:

- Interactive lesson on the Stage 1 Application
- Foundation Scheme CV (Stage 1) – Quick Reference Guide
- Stage 1 and Stage 2 Application Requirements

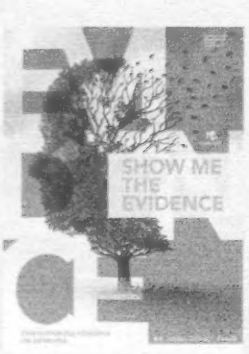
For reviewers:

- Foundation Scheme Peer Review Manual
- Interpretation Guidelines of Foundation Scheme Adjudication Criteria

These supporting materials are being piloted through this competition. They will be assessed as part of the pilot and may be refined if required. Please visit the CIHR website to learn more about the Reforms of Open Programs and peer review processes. If you have any questions please contact Roadmap-Plan.Strategique@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Show me the Evidence

CIHR is pleased to inform you that the Fall issue of *Show me the Evidence* is now available on the CIHR website. *Show me the Evidence* provides details of how and where findings by CIHR-supported researchers are being used. Since the Fall of 2013, each issue of the magazine has focused on one of CIHR's signature initiatives. This issue of Show me the Evidence highlights health research that aligns with CIHR's International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease.



We encourage you to visit our website and Facebook page to read the publication as well as access extra information such as researcher videos, web-exclusive articles and news about related research initiatives.

Funding Opportunities

New Investigator Salary Award : Winter 2014 Priority Announcement

The New Investigator Salary Award program is designed to provide outstanding New Investigators the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their independence in initiating and conducting health research through provision of a contribution to their salary. A New Investigator is defined as a researcher who has held a full time research appointment for a period of 0 to 60 months as of the December competition deadline.

Funds available: The total amount available for this funding opportunity is $600,000, enough to fund 2 awards. The maximum amount awarded for a single award is $60,000 per annum for up to five (5) years. ***Application deadline: December 1, 2014***

Operating Grant : HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research

The aim of the Operating Grant component of the CBR program is to contribute to the creation, dissemination and use of health-related knowledge, and to help develop research capacity, by supporting original, high quality projects proposed and conducted in partnership between the community and academia. Funding is provided for up to three years, to support HIV/AIDS CBR research projects.

Funds Available: The total amount available for this funding opportunity is $1,800,000 enough to fund approximately four grants. The maximum amount per grant is $150,000 per year for up to three years. ***Application Deadline: October 27, 2014***

Catalyst Grant : HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research

The aim of the Catalyst Grant component of the CBR program is to provide seed money, for up to one year, to support HIV/AIDS CBR research activities which represent a first step towards the pursuit of more comprehensive funding opportunities (e.g., operating grants).

Funds Available: The total amount available for this funding opportunity is $231,000, enough to fund approximately seven grants. The maximum amount per grant is $33,000 for up to one year. ***Application Deadline: October 27, 2014***

Did you know?

Individuals File, 2011 National Household Survey (Public Use Microdata Files) DVD-ROM

The 2011 Census Dissemination Project is pleased to announce the official release of the Individuals File, 2011 National Household Survey (Public Use Microdata Files – PUMF) DVD-ROM product (Catalogue no. 99M0001X). This file is available for free and can be ordered through the Statistics Canada Online Catalogue.

This PUMF Individuals File product provides data on the characteristics of the population and allows the study of the relationship between different variables like education and labour market outcome. Data on Aboriginal identity, Aboriginal group and registered Indian status are included in the product. To ensure the respondents' anonymity, geographic identifiers have been restricted to provinces/territories and metropolitan areas. With 133 variables, this comprehensive tool is excellent for policy analysts, pollsters, social researchers and anyone interested in modeling and performing statistical regression analysis using NHS data.

This product, offered on DVD-ROM, contains the data file (in ASCII format); user documentation and supporting information; all licence agreements; and SAS, SPSS and Stata program source codes to enable users to read the set of records. It is important to note that users will require knowledge of data manipulation packages (or software) such as SAS, SPSS or Stata to use this product.

Access to product/ordering information for the Individuals File, 2011 National Household Survey (Public Use Microdata Files – PUMF) DVD-ROM product (Catalogue no. 99M0001X) is available via Statistics Canada's Online Catalogue.

Call for Abstracts: 6th International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health

Abstracts are now being accepted for the 6th International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health in **Ottawa, March 20-22, 2015**. Submissions are welcome from anyone working with Indigenous populations, on any topic related to Indigenous child and youth health. **Deadline to submit is November 3, 2014**. To submit an abstract or for more information, visit www.cps.ca/en/imich.

Publication Announcement: Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Vulnerable People Living in Canada

The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) has published the report Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Vulnerable People Living in Canada. The report concludes a three-year evaluation by a multi-disciplinary CAHS panel into the issue of access to oral health care among vulnerable groups in Canada.

The core problems identified in the report are:

- Vulnerable groups living in Canada have both the highest level of oral health problems and the most difficulty accessing oral health care; and
- The public and private oral health care systems in Canada are not effective in providing reasonable access to oral health care for all vulnerable people living in Canada.

Recommendations to address these core problems include to:

- Communicate with relevant stakeholders concerning the core problems raised in the report.
- Establish appropriate standards of preventive and restorative oral health care to which all people living in Canada should have reasonable access.
- Identify the health care delivery systems and the personnel necessary to provide these standards of oral health care.
- Identify how provision of these standards of preventive and restorative oral health care will be financed.
- Identify the research and evaluation systems that monitor the effects of putting these recommendations into place.

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CIHR-IAPH Website

The Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health fosters the advancement of a national health research agenda to improve and promote the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada, through research, knowledge translation and capacity building. The Institute's pursuit of research excellence is enhanced by respect for community research priorities and Indigenous knowledge, values and cultures.